

1 Amendments to the claims:

2 1. (currently amended): A method for automatically packaging a non-flowing product
3 into pouches, wherein said product is fish, meat or poultry, and wherein said product is sticky,
4 and tends to form clumps and adhere to machinery, comprising the steps:

5 suspending a pouch having an unsealed edge so that the unsealed edge is held
6 open,

7 intermittently and compressively forming a product cake in ~~a~~ an individual
8 forming chamber wherein one surface of said forming chamber is the end wall of a movable
9 and adjustable metering shoe, and

10 ejecting said product cake from said forming chamber into said suspended
11 pouch by moving said movable metering shoe toward said suspended pouch, and

12 periodically adjusting said metering shoe to change the size of said forming
13 chamber to achieve a desired weight of said product cake.

14 2. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein said forming chamber is located within a
15 multi-position turret, and said metering shoe is mounted radially in said turret, comprising the
16 further steps:

17 moving said turret into a first position in which product is compressively fed into
18 and packed in said forming chamber, and

19 rotating said turret to a second position wherein said forming chamber is aligned
20 with said suspended pouch.

21 3. (canceled)

22 4. (original): The method of claim 2 wherein said movable metering shoe moves
23 downwardly in a vertical direction to eject said product cake into said pouch.

24 5. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein said forming chamber lies in a fixed
25 position above said suspended pouch, and wherein said movable metering shoe moves in a
26 direction between a retracted position in which product may be packed in said forming

1 chamber and an ejection position in which the formed product cake is driven into said pouch.

2 6. (currently amended): The method of claim 6 5 wherein said movable metering shoe
3 moves downwardly in a vertical direction to eject said product cake into said pouch.

4 7. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein said product is tuna fish.

5 8. (currently amended): Apparatus for automatically packaging a into pouches non-
6 flowing sticky products that tend to form clumps and adhere to machinery, namely, fish, meat
7 and poultry, into pouches, comprising:

8 suspension means for holding a pouch with an unsealed edge in a position with
9 said unsealed edge open,

10 a forming chamber means into which said product is individually and inter-
11 mittently fed and compressively formed compressed into a cake having a predetermined
12 weight and shape,

13 a movable and adjustable metering shoe movable between first and second
14 positions and having an end wall which in said first position of said movable metering shoe
15 is one surface of said forming chamber means,

16 piston feed means for intermittently and compressively feeding said product into
17 said individual forming chamber means, and

18 ejection means for intermittently moving said movable metering shoe into said
19 second position in which said formed cake is driven into said suspended pouch, and

20 adjustment means for said metering shoe to change the size of said forming
21 chamber to control the weight of said product cake.

22 9. (original): The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said forming chamber means comprises
23 a radially extending cavity formed in a multi-position turret and wherein said movable metering
24 shoe is carried in said radially extending cavity.

25 10. (canceled)

26 11. (original): The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said product is tuna fish.

1 12. (original): The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said multi-position turret is movable
2 between first and second positions, and further comprising:

3 feed means for compressively feeding a known quantity of said product into said
4 forming chamber means to form a cake of known size and weight when said turret is in said
5 first position,

6 means for holding said metering shoe in its said first position as said cake is
7 being formed,

8 means for moving said turret to said second position in which said radially
9 extending cavity is aligned with said suspended pouch, and

10 ejection means for causing said movable metering shoe to move in said radially
11 extending cavity to its second position in which said cake is driven into said suspended pouch.

12 13. (original): The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said movable metering shoe is carried
13 in a fixed frame and wherein said movable metering shoe moves upwardly and downwardly
14 in a vertical direction.

15 14. (original): The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said suspension means for holding
16 said pouch is vertically aligned with and beneath said movable metering shoe.

17 15. (new): Apparatus for automatically packaging into pouches non-flowing sticky
18 products that tend to form clumps and adhere to machinery, namely, fish, meat and poultry,
19 comprising:

20 suspension means for holding a pouch with an unsealed edge in a position with
21 said unsealed edge open,

22 a forming chamber means into which said product is individually and
23 intermittently fed and compressed into a cake having a predetermined weight and shape,

24 a movable metering shoe movable between first and second positions and
25 having an end wall which in said first position of said movable metering shoe is one surface
26 of said forming chamber means,

1 feed means for intermittently and compressively feeding said product into said
2 individual forming chamber means,
3 ejection means for intermittently moving said movable metering shoe into said
4 second position in which said formed cake is driven into said suspended pouch, and
5 adjustment means for said metering shoe whereby the size of said forming
6 chamber may be readily changed.

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